

Today the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations is holding a hearing on the Report into Allegations of Organ Harvesting of Falun Gong Practitioners in China. The report was written by our distinguished witnesses from Canada, the Honorable David Kilgour and Mr. David Matas. We will also be hearing some details from Mr. Erping Zhang about the continued persecution of the Falun Gong in China and around the world.

The Honorable David Kilgour is a former Canadian Secretary of State for the Asia Pacific region, the former Chair of the Human Rights and International Development Subcommittee of the Canadian House of Commons, and a long-standing Member of Parliament.

David Matas is a prominent immigration, refugee and international human rights lawyer in private practice in Winnipeg. He is actively involved in the promotion of respect for human rights as an author, speaker and participant in several human rights non-governmental organizations, such as Amnesty International, B'nai Brith Canada, the Canadian Bar Association, the International Commission of Jurists, and more.

Mr. Erping Zhang is the Executive Director of the Association for Asian Research, an independent research organization based in New York City. His research focuses on social change, political economy, and human rights in China.

Dr. Kirk Allison is Associate Program Director of the Program in Human Rights and Medicine at the University of Minnesota. The Program is devoted to scholarly investigation, practical projects and educational programs that bear on a wide range of moral, legal and public policy issues involving medicine and public health.

The Investigative Report

The Kilgour-Matas team has interviewed both victims and witnesses (both Falun Gong and non-Falun Gong) and has conducted extensive research for the report.

After assessing 18 elements of evidence that the authors submitted were “verifiable and in most cases incontestable,” the report concluded that “there has been and continues today to be large-scale organ seizures from unwilling Falun Gong practitioners” who lost their lives in the process.

If this killing of Falun Gong practitioners for profit, as part of an organ harvesting and sales operation, is true, then as the report suggests, it is “so shocking that it represents a new form of evil in the world.”

Interestingly, before the brutal persecution of the Falun Gong its teachings and practices were supported, even encouraged, by the Chinese communist government. It was thought to have health benefits. It was even promoted within government buildings.

Falun Gong practitioners were from all walks of life and many were senior and mid level political leaders, party members, PLA officers and civil servants. They had spent their lives working for the government and were not inclined to rebel against it. Some were proud to be party members. They were happy to be studying spiritual practices that were based in Chinese religious traditions. Then things changed when they held a peaceful silent meditation protest near a party compound.

The party rewarded their loyalty by doggedly hunting them down, brutally torturing, imprisoning and killing them. Now it appears that the ultimate horror may be taking place: Falun Gong practitioners being killed so that some corrupt official can profit from the sale of their body parts.

It is our duty to shed light on this monstrous crime against a peaceful religious order.